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News in brief

Veterans offer flag disposal

Beginning Monday, residents will be able to drop off their battered, torn, worn-out, or otherwise used American flags at the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland for proper disposal.

The service, offered through the Westland Veterans' Association, will utilize a mailbox type collection bin.

The flags will be disposed of during a formal flag retirement ceremony hosted once a year by an area VFW post.

The library is located at 6123 Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren roads in Westland.

College hosts 'winter delights'

The Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) western campus, along with the continuing education division and the Hidden Lake Gardens will host a 'Winter Delights' event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

The free event will feature Karen Gentry, a horticultural education specialist at Hidden Lake Gardens, which is at the Michigan State University Botanical Garden. Participants will get a hands on experience from professionals in the areas of garden design, recycled materials, floral arrangements and container gardening.

Participants will also have the opportunity to enjoy the talents of a creative specialist who will present decorative ideas and a holiday wreath workshop.

For more information, contact the college at (734) 699-7008.

Body identified in Westland

Westland police have identified the remains of a man discovered in a burning trash dumpster last week, but the circumstances of his death remain elusive.

The badly burned body was discovered at about 7:30 a.m. Oct. 31 after a maintenance worker doused a fire burning in the dumpster shared by the Palmer Terrace housing complex and neighboring businesses off of Venoy Road south of Palmer Road. Officers on-site were unable to ascertain with certainty the gender of the victim.

According to Lt. Dan Karrick of the Westland Police Department, preliminary information provided by the Wayne County Medical Examiner's office confirmed the deceased's identity as 49-year-old Jeffrey Oscar Duncan.

The department expects to receive the complete coroner's report in about six weeks, which could shed more light on precisely what lead up to Duncan's death.

Karrick indicated that officers had received assistance from residents in the area who were familiar with Duncan, who had lived in the area until recently and who had periodically stayed with residents.

Anyone with information regarding the incident is encouraged to contact the Westland Police Department at (734) 722-9600.

— News briefs are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 120, No. 45

NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

75¢

Geiss bests McNeill; sinking fund OK'd

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Good news for a Taylor councilman and the Romulus Community School District arrived Tuesday night, when the former was elected to a 2-year term as a State Representative for District 22, and the latter enjoyed approval of one of two ballot questions.

Doug Geiss (D-Taylor), an engineer with Ford Motor Co. and the president of the Taylor City Council, was elected after earning 71 percent of the vote. His opponent was Darrell McNeill (R-Taylor).

The cities of Romulus and Taylor comprise District 22; the

area has always trended heavily Democratic, but according to Geiss, some other factors were at work during this election cycle.

In Romulus, Geiss earned 8,759 versus McNeill's 1,566. The numbers are unofficial; canvassers will hit the streets to certify the vote during the next several days.

Geiss said he was overwhelmed by the support he received.

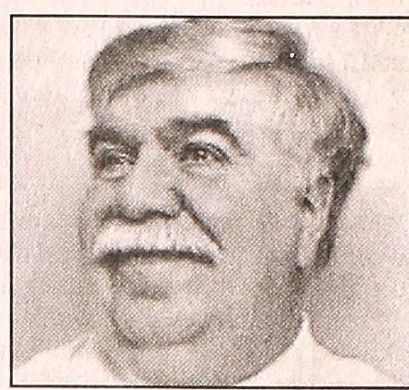
"In a way I'm almost relieved," he said. "It was a busy campaign, and you never know how it's going to go until you see the (election) results. It's like preparing for a test — you don't know what you're going to get until it's over."

Geiss will replace outgoing Rep. Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Taylor),



Doug Geiss

who is term limited. He said jobs and the economy, and school funding will be the first issues he works on, after he familiarizes himself issues and acclimates to the new position.



Darrell McNeill

"The number one concern I have is jobs — we have to find a way to bring more jobs to the state," he said. "I'm hoping that with the

See Outcome, page 4



Democracy in action

Residents were lined up 200-people strong at 7 a.m., when the Romulus City Hall precinct opened to voters for the 2008 election. During the process, a record number of voters filed in to cast their ballot with few issues, said Rose Matthews Bland, an election worker who checked in voters. "It's been a busy day so far, and it's going to get busier after people leave work," she said. Outside, a number of residents and supporters for candidates praised the turnout, and stumped hard for their candidate. Charles Miller, who stood near the parking lot with a Barack Obama sign, said this election was different than those of the past. "The United States needs some change right now," he said. "I don't think we've had anyone inspire us like (Obama) in 15 years."



Lightning, fire guts Van Buren complex

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The fire at Southport Apartments in Van Buren Township Monday was caused by a lightning strike at the building.

According to public safety officials, building number nine was hit by lightning and power surges at about 5:30 a.m. on Monday, which started near the exterior of the building and traveled undetected into the attic and roof space.

Emergency personnel were dispatched at about 11:50 a.m. to the apartments located on Oak Lane after smoke was reported coming from the back of the building. Firefighters and officers

Police officers helped to connect hoses to any hydrants and assisted in securing the crowd away from the scene.

Lt. Dan Besson

arrived to find that the fire had traveled through the roof. All occupants and pets were immedi-

ately evacuated from the building, according to Lt. Dan Besson, public information officer for the Van Buren Township Fire Department.

"Police officers helped to connect hoses to any hydrants and assisted in securing the crowd away from the scene," he said.

Mutual aid was requested from Belleville, Romulus and Ypsilanti Township, while Canton and Augusta Township fire departments covered calls for Van Buren fire during the incident.

Township police officers who were also cross-trained as fire-

See Fire, page 4

Trial is delayed again

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The case against a former airport baggage handler who is accused of bludgeoning an Inkster woman to death was adjourned for a second time last week.

The trial of 33-year-old Joseph Perron, formerly of Dearborn Heights, was supposed to begin Oct. 30, but was pushed back until Dec. 9.

It was unclear why the case was postponed. The judge assigned to the case is Diane Hathaway, who

Perron is accused of beating to death 29-year-old Kesha Penny on Oct. 22 of last year.

was seeking a Michigan Supreme Court seat.

Perron is accused of beating to death 29-year-old Kesha Penny on Oct. 22 of last year. He is charged with one count of first-degree murder and an additional count of felony murder, as well as other felonies, and faces the prospect of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole if convicted of the charges.

Inkster patrol officers were dispatched to Penny's rented home on the 3500 block of Harriet Street after Penny's boyfriend, who also lived at the home, called police at about 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 22.

Inside, they found Penny severely beaten and stabbed, with blood in virtually every corner of the home. Penny's 15-month-old son was also at the scene.

Homicide detectives were immediately called, along with

See Case, page 4

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Trustee reflects on 2 decades of service

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Family name and honesty are just two factors that have kept Walter Rochowiak in the office of Van Buren Township, he said.

"People thought I was doing a good job, the seniors respected me and I've always been involved and always will be with the community," he said.

After 20 years as a township trustee, Rochowiak didn't make it through the August primary, which he said hurt, "but that's politics."

"People want change so they got that and I hope it will be for the betterment of the community," he said. "I felt the board we had did good."

Rochowiak was first elected in 1988 and has since been the board representative for the water and sewer commission, as well. He's also served on the public safety commission, elections commission and has been the management representative for contract talks with American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) for the last 20 years, too.

"When I first started I watched what was going on and joked to a then trustee that if he didn't do a good job I was going to run him out of office, which happened to be a Republican board at the time," said Rochowiak. "Then Democrats ran and turned the history of Van Buren."

"Things are sure to change this time around, too," he added.

Rochowiak said he's going to miss the township board position tremendously.

"But, I'm not going to go their (meetings) and harass the new board or anything like

People want change so they got that and I hope it will be for the betterment of the community. I felt the board we had did good.

Walter Rochowiak



Walter Rochowiak

that. I was new once myself," he said.

Some of his board accomplishments he lists are payments from the landfill, free garbage pick-up, new cars for the public safety department and water and sewer connections into the township.

Cindy King, former township supervisor, said other accomplishments shared with the rest of the prior board include: balanced budgets, successful passage of public safety millages, township hall renovations and new fire stations.

"Serving with Walt has been a pleasure," she said. "He is a true gentleman and rarely says an unkind word about anyone, but if he does, the other person did something to deserve it."

"He's quiet, but thoughtful, preferring to listen before jumping to a conclusion. I think others think that means he will simply 'go with the flow' but that's not true, he will argue vigorously for something he believes in. Rather, Walt likes to hear the differing points of view and as a senior board member he demonstrates wisdom in his thinking."

Throughout the years, Rochowiak said the board of trustees has changed, regard-

less of people who felt it was the 'same old thing.'

"The people have changed and it always changed, which seemed to be for the good of the community," he said. "I hope the new board coming on will do the right things for the good of the community."

As an active member of the Huron Valley Conservation Association, the St. Anthony's Men's Club, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Farm Bureau, Rochowiak will always be involved in the community, he said, because that's what he likes.

"When people see that they know you're out there doing things," he said. "I still run the greenhouse and farm for a living and maybe, I'll get involved with township politics again."

King said Rochowiak has helped Van Buren Township with his institutional knowledge, through his involvement, has made a difference and will be missed.

"He is an approachable person and I can't recall a single instance in which somebody complained to me that he was rude or arrogant. Residents feel comfortable asking Walt for information or stop-

ping to compliment him if they're happy," she added.

"I want to say thank-you, thank-you to all the residents form the bottom of my heart," said Rochowiak. "If for some reason I hurt someone, then I apologize, but I've always wanted to do good for the community and I hope I did."

Belleville women's group plans charity fashion show

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Members of the Belleville Business and Professional Women's (BPW) club will strut their stuff on the runway next week to generate scholarship funds.

As part of the annual event, the group will host a fashion show and silent auction at 6 p.m. on Nov. 12 at the Woodlands of Van Buren in Wayne. The event will include cocktails, dinner, door prizes and more, according to organizer and group member Joyce Rochowiak.

"It's our biggest fundraiser of the year and all the proceeds go to our scholarship fund," she said. "We really don't have too many organizations left in Belleville now so this is a great way to help."

Drinks will be served from 6 until 7 p.m. when dinner will be served. The fashion show is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. The models—including Kathie Stiegerwald of the Brown Family

I've been in it for more than 20 years because it stands for the rights of women, it promotes those rights, plus it's a community organization.

Joyce Rochowiak

Center, Shelly Brown of Brown's Funeral Home, Colette and Whitney McClinton of Garden Fantasy, Gloria Daughtery, Judge Tina Brooks Green of the 34th District Court, former supervisor Cindy King, Martha Brown of Brown Funeral Home and Family Center and Rochowiak—will showcase clothes from the new Dressbarn in Canton and Trinity brands in Belleville.

Club president Janet Millard said people should come for the fun, girls' night out.

"There's some really great silent auction gifts and, it's nice for the women to have that night, that's why I enjoy it so much," she

said.

The auction will include a variety of beauty and gift baskets, quilts and other arrangements. Tickets are 10 for \$1. The group is also looking for more donations, as well.

A raffle of \$1,000 total will be given away, with the first prize of \$700, second prize of \$200 and the third prize of \$100. Tickets for the raffle are \$1 each.

Proceeds will fund a high school senior scholarship and one for women who want to go back to school.

"People have to apply for these and funding is not always the same each year because it

depends on how much is raised," said Rochowiak. "I'd like to have about 250 people come, but it's very unpredictable."

"The women are out there selling tickets and it's a lot of fun," she added. "We hope to see a lot of people because we have a good time, we enjoy the company and sometimes, we even have some men show up, too."

The Belleville Business and Professional Women currently has 25 members and are always looking for more.

"I've been in it for more than 20 years because it stands for the rights of women, it promotes those rights, plus it's a community organization," said Rochowiak.

"We're trying to do the best we can for everybody out there and keep in the eyes of the public," she added. "We're always trying to get young, new members to be better and better each year."

Tickets to the fashion show are \$28 and are not available at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact any

BPW member or Rochowiak at (734) 697-7108.

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◉ **ROLE MODELS** (R) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:35
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◉ **SOUL MEN** (R) 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:05, 9:30
FRI/SAT LS 11:50

◉ **ZACK AND MIRI** (R)
FRI, SUN-TH 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:20, 9:25
SAT 4:55, 7:20, 9:25 FRI/SAT LS 11:50

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'Survivor' speaks at local church

Scott Spielman
Editor

There are a lot of similarities between the reality show *Survivor* and, well, reality.

There's an easy way to be successful at both, too, according to Mike Skupin, one of the most well-known former competitors on the show. He said a combination of love, communication and a relationship with God are important in this day and age.

"Everything we did out there is a result of a choice you make," Skupin told a group of parishioners and guests at the New Beginnings Church in Wayne on Sunday. "You have to write your own story. It's not that different from life."

Skupin, who competed in the 2001 season of the show, is perhaps best known for two instances that took place during his shortened stay on national television. He tracked down and killed a young wild boar when his 'tribe' was suffering from hunger. He also passed out and fell into a fire and had to be air-lifted to a hospital, ending his run. Perhaps the most surprising, he said Sunday, was his appearance on the show to begin with. He still doesn't know how he beat out 64,000 other hopefuls to earn a spot on a reality show that he had never seen—and knew nothing about.

"I didn't even know how to play the game," he said. "I thought they would take us out that and give us some direction. All they said was 'Go.'"

Skupin has given countless talks since his appearance on the show. A Christian of about 20 years before his brush with fame, he credits it with bringing him closer to God. He said he had made the commitment, but hadn't really taken it personally.

"I never really connected," Skupin told the crowd. "I didn't get it."

Enter the Australian Outback where, three days into the game, Skupin and his tribemates were beset by difficulty after difficulty. Rain had been steady, a fire just a dream. They hadn't eaten a real meal and had already lost one of the challenges. Skupin said he was walking alone and decided to talk to God.

"It wasn't a prayer," he said. "It was sort of a wrestling match with God."

That conversation helped build the foundation of his faith, he said. It also helped turn around the fortunes of the overall tribe. They soon found a fig tree and never lacked for food during the rest of their time there. It also pro-



Mike Skupin

vided Skupin with an epiphany that relates to the current trying times: trials are tribulations are needed to provide spiritual growth.

"We have no problem believing God parted the Red Sea, or could bring people back to life, or He could feed a few thousand people with a couple of loaves of bread," he said. "But we look around today and ask: Did God run out of miracles? Why are there no miracles happening today?"

"I think what's happening is that we keep looking for the \$100 bill miracles, we keep looking for the parting of the Red Sea miracles," he added. "So many people are caught up in the here, the now, that they don't see the miracles in everyday life. And they don't thank God for them."

Skupin has talked to more than four million people as a motivational speaker since his appearance on the reality show. He also created the charity Victory over Addiction in 2001 to help fight drug addiction among children. He was active prior to his appearance on national television, too—he helped give away 18 million CD ROMs of the Bible as part of a General Mills Giveaway.

Pastor Mike Wilson at New Beginnings said he wanted to bring Skupin in at a time when economic difficulties dominate the news and many people are concerned about the future.

"It's kind of a depressing time right now," said Wilson. "We thought this would be the right person for the right time. It can help lift up the community."

Skupin said that reminds him of his time in Australia, wandering a near daze with a belly aching from a lack of food—that growth happens during difficult times.

"The world is in a pretty tight time right now and we may not have even seen the bottom yet," he said. "But guess what? The churches are filling up again."

Library begins 'Books on Wheels'

In an effort to provide easy access to library resources for everyone in the Belleville area, The Fred C Fischer Library is spearheading a "Books on Wheels" program.

The program will aim to deliver books to those unable to access the library in person. The effort is meant to target not only senior apartments, nursing homes and assisted living facilities, but also private residences.

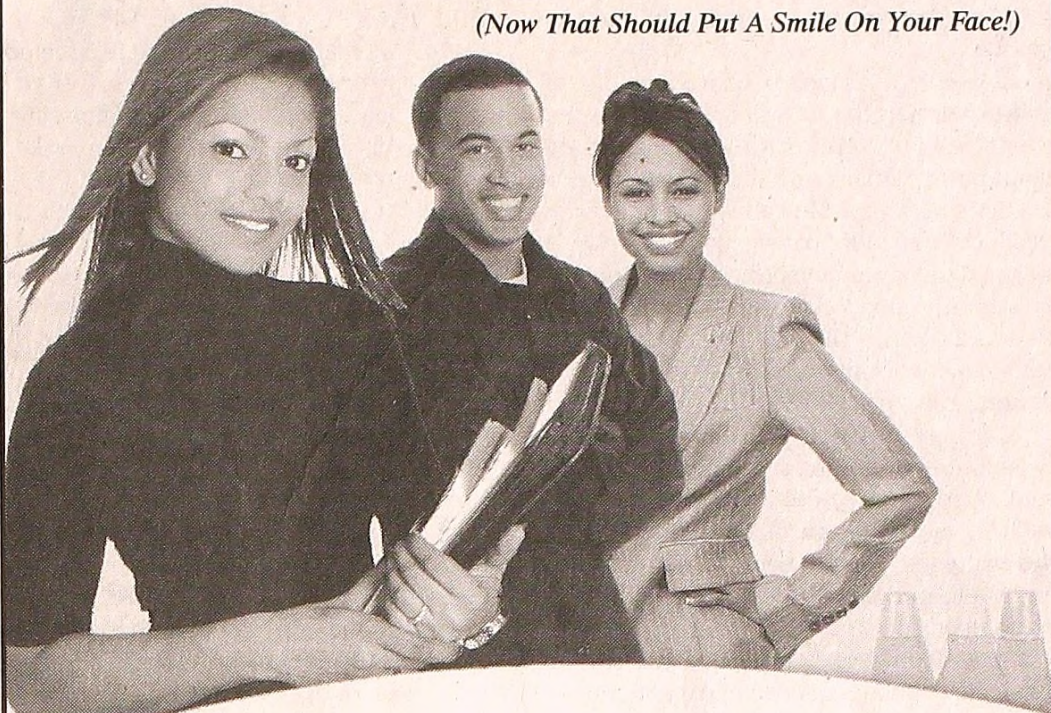
Any person of any age in Belleville, Sumpter Township or Van Buren Township who would like library services, but is unable to travel to the library, can participate.

The program is also in need of volunteers to deliver books. Volunteers must have their own transportation.

For more information about the program or to volunteer, contact Michelle Wloch at the library at (734) 699-3291.

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Goodfellows drive begins in Van Buren

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The Belleville/Van Buren Township 'good guys' are gearing up for giving this holiday season.

Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows organization will start the 2008 charitable collecting this week for families in need around the community. This year, they will once again collect non-perishable canned food, hygiene products, like toilet paper and paper towels, toys and money to help hundreds of families.

Pam Fleming, organizer and administrative assistant in the Van Buren Township Public Safety Department, said this year will certainly be busy.

"I've been getting calls about it for the last two months, averaging about 10 per day," she said. "With the way the economy is I'm sure we'll do more than the 130 families that we did last year. There's been so many layoffs and such, we know there will be many people in need."

Capt. Ken Brooks of the Van Buren Township Public Safety Department and co-

chair of the Goodfellows said he, too, expects this year to be a record high because of the economy and unemployment.

"Giving will probably be less too because of that, but the need is still there and greater," he said. "We anticipate to have one and a half times or even double this year than last year. It may be a sad Christmas for a lot of children, but we hope we can make it better for them."

The volunteer organization—with the motto 'No Child Without A Christmas'—is made up of members from the Van Buren Township police and fire departments, along with members from the City of Belleville police and fire departments who work year-round. They help to supply items, such as food, funds and gifts for families.

"I've been doing this for about 25 years now," said Brooks. "A lot of people cry, some people can't believe we're doing this and some couldn't have a Christmas without the Goodfellows."

"You get one or two people that really tug on the heart strings and it makes it all worthwhile," he added. "There's a lot of people out

there, too, who deserve it, but are too proud to ask."

Gene Taylor, Belleville police chief and co-chair of the Goodfellows, said he hopes that no child will go without, this year.

"Sometimes people forgo their hardships and try to help," he said. "My mom was always like that, we wouldn't have much in the pantry, but she would always give anyway. It seems that even though times are bad, people will still try and help."

Registrations will continue through Dec. 5. Residents who want to receive help for the upcoming holiday must pick up a registration form at the Van Buren Township Police station on Tyler Road, fill it out and return with a verification of residency.

Registration forms must be returned by Dec. 5. Residents who register will receive a flyer in the mail the week of Dec. 8 explaining where to pick up food and toys. No phone registrations will be accepted.

Collections will continue until Dec. 5, as well. The drop-off location points include: the Van Buren Township Police Department, which is open 24 hours, 7 days a week and

from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Belleville Police Department. Donations will then be distributed from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at township hall. All leftover food donations will go to the First United Methodist Church food bank.

People who register with the Goodfellows will not be eligible at other donation banks, like St. Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army.

"We need to spread it around and give others a chance," said Fleming.

Fleming, who has been working with the Goodfellows organization since 1992, said there's been a lot of appreciation during the years.

"Many don't know what they'd do without the Goodfellows," she said. "It's the enjoyment of knowing we're helping those families and children in need."

The Goodfellows will also start to sell their newspaper from daylight until dusk on Nov. 28 and 29 at various locations around the township and city.

For more information about registration, drop-off locations or how to contribute, contact Fleming at (734) 699-8934.

Calendar of events

Fall book club announced

The Second Monday Book Club has announced the selections for book discussion scheduled throughout the winter months.

Book club members meet the second Monday of each month to discuss various titles. The club meets from 7-8:15 p.m. at the library.

Selections include: *Mr. Paradise* by Elmore Leonard, which will be discussed on Nov. 10; *Death of Ivan Ilyich* by Leo Tolstoy, which will be discussed Dec. 8; *American Detective: An Amos Walker Mystery* by Loren D. Estleman, which will be discussed Jan. 12; *Ladies of Liberty* by Cokie Roberts, which will be discussed Feb. 9; *Thief of Souls* by Ann Benson, which will be discussed March 9; and *Anatomy of a Murder* by Robert Traver, which will be discussed April 13.

Book discussions are free and open to all age 18 and up. Readers need not register in advance.

The library will have copies of the books, or will assist participants in obtaining an inter-library loan copy.

The Romulus Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road, next door to the Romulus City Hall facility.

For more information, call the library at (734) 941-3575.

Flu shots offered

Sav-On Drug stores throughout metro Detroit will have flu clinics in November and December. Flu shots are \$25 this year, and pneumonia shots will be offered for \$35.

Payment options include cash, check and credit card, as well Medicare and medical insurances.

The clinics are open to the public for people 14 and older. For a weekly listing of flu clinics, visit flushotcalendar.com or call 1-877-SAV ON 2 U (877-728-6628).

The clinics are scheduled from 2-4 p.m. Nov. 17, and will take place at the Sav-On Family Pharmacy at 36567 Goddard Road.

For more information, call (734) 941-0755.

Hazardous waste collection day set

The Wayne County Department of Environment is sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8 at the Westland Department of Public Works yard, 37137 Marquette, just east of Newburgh Road.

Examples of acceptable items are: household paints, stains, dyes, floor wax, floor care product, carpet cleaner, fertilizer, lawn and garden chemicals, pesticides, antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline, automotive batteries and dry cell batteries.

All Wayne County residents are eligible to drop off items, even if the collection will take place in Westland. For more information, please contact the Wayne County Resource Recovery Coordinator at (734) 326-3936.

— Events are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen.

Case

FROM PAGE 1

crime scene investigators from the Michigan State Police. During the next 17 hours, the home was processed for evidence. Police detectives also interviewed neighbors and other witnesses.

Inside the home, a wall-mounted air conditioner was found on the floor, along with a claw hammer and a knife that apparently were used in the attack on Penny. Blood evidence was obtained from two vehicles parked outside the home.

Witnesses told police they saw a white male matching Perron's description at the home on the day of the fatal attack.

Perron was interviewed by Inkster detectives after the crime, and at some point, volunteered to

provide a DNA sample to investigators, and the sample was matched to several items found at the home. He was arrested several weeks after Penny's death at a drug rehabilitation center in Muskegon.

During pre-trial hearings earlier this year, Penny's boyfriend testified that he knew Perron from work, and had sold him drugs. Investigators believe that the boyfriend's inability to sell the defendant drugs earlier in the day may have led to the attack on Penny.

The testimony also revealed that Penny's 15-month-old child may have witnessed the attack.

Penny, a home healthcare worker, was described as hard working, and making plans to return to school.

The trial will take place at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit.

Outcome

FROM PAGE 1

election of (President-elect) Barack Obama that we have a more seamless interaction between state and local government, and that they understand our concerns."

Geiss also said the process of handing over all-important committee assignments will begin soon.

"I would seek the assignments that fit in with my platform," he said, adding that he believes the transportation, science and technology and education committees would be a natural fit for him.

The schools, which had two proposals on the ballot, received mixed news when the polls closed Tuesday.

The sinking fund proposal allows the district to create a fund for capital outlay items such as roofing, heating and cooling equipment, parking lots and sidewalks,

technology and security infrastructure.

Romulus schools asked – and received – a 0.75 mill sinking fund for a period of 10 years that will generate about \$1 million in funds that can only be used for physical repairs and improvements to facilities. Though the district does not presently have a sinking fund, financial staffers have found a way to introduce one without raising taxes on residents. In the final tally, about 54 percent of voters approved the measure.

Voting is 'mocked' at school

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Earlier this week, lines snaked down school corridors as voters waited patiently for their turn to sign in and cast a ballot for a presidential candidate.

Some proudly proclaimed their favorites even as others expressed uncertainty about which they wanted to give their support. Most kept silent.

They weren't the faces shown on the evening news on Tuesday as cameras panned the crowds turned out for the history-making election. They were children ranging from kindergarten through fifth grade at Lincoln Elementary School in Westland getting a firsthand glimpse of the electoral process on Monday.

"What better way for them to learn about government than by practicing doing their civic duty," said Lincoln Elementary School principal Jennifer Munson. "It's a great learning experience."

All day long, classroom after classroom had an opportunity to

head to a special polling location to vote for either Barack Obama or John McCain for United States President via a ballot process. It was as representative of an actual Election Day poll experience as possible, Munson said.

As they filed in, the students signed in at the voter registration table where the 'election worker' passed each of them a ballot with the name and—in deference to the age of the voters—the image of the Democratic and Republican nominees. Children retreated behind privacy booths actually used in the election process, loaned to the school for the day by the Westland City Clerk's Office, where they could fill in the bubble next to their preferred candidate in private.

It was a system that caught fifth grade student Shelby DuFresne by surprise. She said that she enjoyed the election although the process of voting wasn't quite as she had envisioned it.

"I didn't expect it to be on paper," she said. "I expected it to be like a telephone booth where

could close the door and push a button to vote."

Once finished, the voters slipped their ballots into actual privacy shield provided by the clerk's office to transport their ballot to the ballot box in secrecy and collected their 'I voted' sticker.

The hardest part of the process, according to fifth grader Matthew Perez, was deciding which candidate to support. So what was he looking for in a president?

"Mostly someone who would stop the war in Iraq," he said.

The key to DuFresne's decision hinged on which candidate would be best for the nation as a whole since "we usually look for who would help our country better."

The outcome of the mock election hadn't been determined yet by the Tuesday evening publication deadline for this paper. The citizenship training behind the process, however, appeared to have found its mark as students including DuFresne and Perez declared the process simple and expressed an interest in continuing to vote in the future.

Teens charged in attack, robbery

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Two men face felony charges after a Halloween attack and robbery of a pizza delivery person near the northern Westland border.

According to police, the driver was on his way back to his vehicle at about 10:15 p.m. on Oct. 31 after delivering a meal to a residence at the Hawthorne Club Apartments, located in the area of Merriman and Warren roads, when he was accosted.

"As he was leaving he was confronted by two fellows with bats," said Lt. Dan Karrick of the Westland Police Department. "He was struck by one of the guys."

Fire

FROM PAGE 1

fighters helped combat the fire that was quickly spreading to the attic and other parts of the roof, officials said.

"Firefighters raced to control the spread of the fire from reaching the rest of the building, while extinguishing the fire in the attic space with the help of pre-connected hose lines and an aerial truck," said Besson.

About 30 displaced residents—

Although he did not sustain any serious injuries, the delivery person fell after being struck.

"They took his wallet and his money," said Karrick, who added that the thieves made off with \$58.

The crime was unsuccessful for the two teens allegedly responsible for the attack, however, since they were quickly captured by Westland police officers who were called to the scene to deal with the disturbance. Police also recovered the money stolen during the incident.

Ray Andrew Lake, 19, of Canton Township and 18-year-old Cornelius Edward Mickels of Inkster were arraigned on Monday before Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli of the 18th District Court in Westland on a felony charge—

armed robbery—in connection with the attack. Cicirelli, who entered a not guilty plea on behalf of each of the men, set the bond in the case at \$100,000 cash for each of them.

Lake and Mickels will return to 18th District Court on Nov. 13 for preliminary hearing on the charge. At the preliminary hearing, the prosecution must convince a judge that there is sufficient evidence that a crime was committed and that there is reasonable cause to believe that the person accused committed the crime to warrant sending the matter to trial at Wayne County Circuit Court.

If ultimately convicted of armed robbery, an individual faces penalties of up to life in prison.

12 considered long term—were assisted with personal belongings by the property management, the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. No residents were hurt in the incident although two firefighters were evaluated for minor injuries, according to reports.

Officials also responded to a 30-year-old township man who was trapped in a tractor recently after his clothed arm became tangled in an auger.

Police Ofc. Mike Long, also a paramedic, discovered the man while he was trying to dig post-

holes. The man's clothes got entangled in the mechanisms that connected the auger to the front loader tractor, which cut off circulation to his right arm causing a severe trauma to his left arm, according to officials.

Long was able to cut the man free and complete an assessment for injuries, along with fire officials. The patient was then treated for shock and transported to the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti. He is expected to recover from his injuries after extensive rehabilitation, according to reports.

However, the district request for a non-homestead renewal, which is paid by businesses, rental property owners, apartments and other non-residential properties, failed to generate enough support, earning only 44.28 percent of the vote, versus 55.72 against.

The proposal would have restored the non-homestead tax from 17.5 to 18 mills, and would have generated \$350,000 in revenue to the schools.

Schools Superintendent Carl Weiss said the approval of the sink-

ing fun provision would be of immense help to the district, and will help create a new budget for badly-needed building improvements, while keeping other dollars in the classroom.

Counting the votes turned into a long night for the staff of the city clerk's office, said Elections Clerk Rendell Wooden.

"We had 65 percent turnout which is a record," she said. "I have never seen turnout so big. There were lines at all of the polls, but in general, everything went smoothly."

A national holiday?

Chances are Barack Obama wasn't thinking about the future of U.S. elections when he asked Americans who are supporting his campaign to take the day off from work and school on Tuesday. He wanted as many of his supporters as possible to go to the polls. But his suggestion of treating Election Day as if it was a federal holiday is the right way to ensure more voters participate in the electoral process.

The foundation of this democracy is centered on the premise that each American has the right to cast a vote. We take off time from work and school to remember our veterans during Memorial Day and Veterans Day. It is correct to also take off to acknowledge the day dedicated to perform the act that our fighting men and women defend with their lives.

In order for this Election Holiday concept to work, Americans have to make the day more than an opportunity to catch a few extra hours of sleep or barbecue.

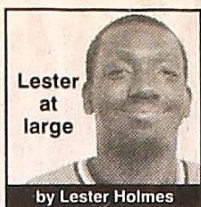
This election withstanding, turnout for General Elections for the past 40 years has averaged between 40-60 percent according to statistics from the Federal Election Commission. By making the election a holiday, I believe participation will increase especially considering that the majority of voters in America have jobs and/or attend school. Moreover, more people would volunteer to be poll workers and more election officials could be

trained due to an increased pool of Americans who want to participate. With all due respect to the poll volunteers in western Wayne County communities, it is fair to say a dose of younger blood is needed to help.

Some public entities have already called Election Day a day off. Take for example that the majority of state employees in Michigan had the day off as well as students and teachers involved in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools. Schools are oftentimes polling locations and the decision to limit confusion between students and voters was wise.

With the issues America has to face not only in the 2008 General Election as well as elections in the foreseeable future, all Americans who are willing to participate in the process—whether it is registering people to vote, volunteering to be a poll-watcher on Election Day or using the time to take your children to the polls and show them the importance of Democracy. Everyone should be able to participate on a day dedicated to election of our leaders.

It is almost impossible to declare a holiday for every school board or city commission election but the country should come together every four years for the General Election and treat the day with the importance it deserves.



Lester at large

by Lester Holmes



Last year, former Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Fran Toney was honored during the Annual Gala. This year the event will honor eight Plymouth community residents and/or business owners who have helped the community grow.

Party on Annual Plymouth Chamber event set for tomorrow evening

Lester L. Holmes, Jr.
Staff Writer

"(The honorees) have longtime family contributions to the development of the Plymouth community," said Graff.

In addition to being "a great opportunity"

More than 400 people are expected to gather at Laurel Manor in Livonia tomorrow evening to celebrate the 19th Annual Meeting, Dinner and Gala of the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, and honor several individuals who have helped the community grow.

According to Chamber Executive Director Wes Graff, the individuals being honored this year, Bill Saxton, Betty Barbour, Sanford Burr, Jeannette Schryer, William Gayde, Mary Pauline, Ernest Krumm and Graham Laible have all made Plymouth a better place.

"(The honorees) have longtime family contributions to the development of the Plymouth community."

to mix and mingle with many community leaders," as well as the honorees, the event is the largest chamber fundraiser with an auction of items from local vendors and Detroit area sports teams.

On the auction block this year are tickets to the Detroit Lions

Thanksgiving Game as well as sports paraphernalia from the four major sports teams in the area. A vacation stay in a Florida condominium will also be auctioned. Laurel Manor is located on 39000 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia. Call (734) 453-1540 for more information.

Inkster

FROM PAGE 5

down.

We know that retaining jobs in the United States – for the people who pay the taxes – and controlling the nation's debt – works.

We know that having a sufficient social

safety net – but one that does not catch people permanently – works.

Many politicians are out of touch with those things.

Whichever candidate ultimately becomes the 44th President of the United States must create a more secure middle class.

And if he doesn't, citizens on the business end of bad policies need to hold his feet to fire.

Send us your letters

The Journal Newspapers welcomes all letters to the editor.

Letters should be addressed to:

The Editor, The Journal Newspapers,
35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan 48184.

All letters will be considered for publication and may be edited for content, space and length.

CLASSIFIED

01. Obituaries
02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments
& Cemetery Plots
05. Personals/Announcements
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
30. Help Wanted

31. Help Wanted Sales
32. Help Wanted Drivers
33. Child Care
34. Specialized Services
35. Situations Wanted
40. Business Opportunity
42. Health and Fitness
43. Money to Loan
44. Music/Art Lessons
45. Adult Care
46. Private Schools/Instruction
47. Riding/Horses/Stables

50. Pets & Supplies
54. Rummage Sales
55. Estate Sales
56. Flea Markets
57. Antiques
58. Garage and Yard Sales
59. Auctions
60. Misc. Sales
61. Misc. Items
62. Building Supplies
63. Business and Office Equipment

64. Lawn & Garden Supplies
65. Tree Service
66. Landscape / Nurseries
67. Garden Plant / Supplies
68. Garden / Produce
70. Masonry / Brickwork
72. Cleaning Services
73. Musical Merchandise
74. Sporting Goods
75. Boats / Accessories
76. Remodeling & Renovations
77. Recreation Vehicles

78. Hunting / Fishing
82. Wanted to Buy
87. Room for Rent
88. Duplexes for Rent
89. Apartments for Rent
90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent
92. Business Places for Rent
93. Banquet Halls
94. Farm Land for Rent
95. Real Estate
96. Houses for Rent
97. Cottages for Rent

98. Mobile Homes for Rent
99. Flats for Rent
100. Will Share
101. Wanted to Rent
102. Storage
103. Business Property for Sale
104. Farms & Acreage for Sale
105. Mobile Homes for Sale
106. Houses for Sale
107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale
108. Lake and Resort
109. Income Property

110. Lots for Sale
111. Out of State Property
112. Commercial Lease
113. Real Estate Wanted
114. Auto Accessories
115. Autos for Sale
116. Antique & Classic Cars
117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
118. Freebies
119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries



Roosevelt "Ham" Morgan Jr.

Sunrise: June 4, 1937
Sunset: October 25, 2008
"Ham" departed this life on Saturday, October 25, 2008 at 5:51 a.m. at Sinai Grace Hospital, Detroit, MI. He leaves to cherish his memory: a loving and devoted wife of 41 years, Patricia; one son, Tom (LaTasha) Morgan, Houston, TX; one daughter, Toni Morgan, Belleville, MI; two step-daughters that he raised as his own: Tina Allison, Pontiac, MI and Terri Griffin, Inkster, MI; one sister-in-law, Pricilla Gibson of Ypsilanti, MI; six grandchildren: Shawntal (LaTasha) Griffin, Grand Rapids, MI, Joseph Allison, Inkster, MI, Sheldon (Jacquelyne) Allison, Westland, MI, Antonio, Tatanysha and Alexia Morgan, Houston, TX; three great-grandchildren; one close friend he called his brother, Albert Bennett, Walnut, CA; one close young man he called his son, Charles Vaughn, Westland, MI and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.
Cathedral of Faith, 13925 Burt Road, Detroit, MI, Rev. Lee Jackson, Officiating.

Penn Funeral Home 3015 S. Inkster Road, Inkster, MI, Interment United Memorial Gardens, Plymouth, MI.



Nettie Mae Tatum

Sunrise: March 30, 1922
Sunset: October 24, 2008
On Friday, October 24, 2008, she heard her call to come home. Nettie Mae leaves to cherish her loving memories: her brother, Charlie Cranford; her sister-in-law, Alma Cranford; her daughter-in-law, Geraldine Cranford; four grandchildren: Leslie Hampton, Vincent Cranford, Russell Cranford of Columbus, Ohio and Jacqueline (David) Harris of Cincinnati, Ohio; six great-grandchildren: Silvester Hampton, Serena Hampton, Damita (Michael) Jones of Cincinnati, Ohio, Ashlee Harris of Cincinnati, Ohio, Crystal Harris of Cincinnati, Ohio and Jeremy Cranford; three great-great-grandchildren; Tiyanina and Michael Jones, Jr. of Cincinnati, Ohio and Anna Hampton; she also leaves a host of nieces and nephews.
Prayer Chapel Church of God in Christ, 12707 Fullerton Street, Detroit, Michigan, Supt. Jesse Cranford III, Officiating, Penn Funeral Home, 3015 S. Inkster Road, Inkster, MI 48141, Interment United

Memorial Gardens, 4800 Curtis Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.



Sunrise: September 22, 1957
Sunset: September 26, 2008
Gregory Demetrius Hall Gregory was preceded in death by his daughter, Latrisha Moore. He leaves to cherish his memory a son, Demetrius Bankhead and Demetrius grandmother, Priscilla Bankhead and a host of friends and extended family. Penn Funeral Home, 3015 S. Inkster Road, Inkster, Michigan 48141, 313-278-6300, Mr. James H. Penn & Son, Directors, Tri County Cremation Service, Ypsilanti, Michigan



Sunrise: September 6, 1935
Sunset: October 21, 2008
In loving memory of Estella Estella Ruth King Hayes On Friday, October 24, 2008, she heard her call to come home. Nettie Mae leaves to cherish her loving memo-

ries: her brother, Charlie Cranford; her sister-in-law, Alma Cranford; her daughter-in-law, Geraldine Cranford; four grandchildren: Leslie Hampton, Vincent Cranford, Russell Cranford of Columbus, Ohio and Jacqueline (David) Harris of Cincinnati, Ohio; six great-grandchildren: Silvester Hampton, Serena Hampton, Damita (Michael) Jones of Cincinnati, Ohio, Ashlee Harris of Cincinnati, Ohio, Crystal Harris of Cincinnati, Ohio and Jeremy Cranford; three great-great-grandchildren; Tiyanina and Michael Jones, Jr. of Cincinnati, Ohio and Anna Hampton; she also leaves a host of nieces and nephews. Amith Baptist Church, 27075 Carlysie, Inkster, Michigan 48141, Reverend Anthony B. Eaddy, Pastor, Officiating, Penn Funeral Home, 3015 S. Inkster Road, Inkster, Michigan 48141, Mr. James H. Penn & Son, Directors, Interment, United Memorial Gardens, Plymouth, Michigan.

59. Auctions

Notice is hereby given that on 11/19/2008 at 2:00pm the following will be sold by competitive bidding at National Storage Center, Westland, 39205 Ford rd., Westland,

34. Specialized Services

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MI 48185

Unit#126 Damond L. Watkins,
Household Goods, Misc. Goods

Unit#384 Kenneth Dotson,
Household Goods, Misc. Goods,

Recreational Items
Unit#385 Kenneth Dotson,
Household Goods, Misc. Goods,

Recreational Items
Unit#440 Barabra J. Duffer,
Household Goods, Misc. Goods,

Recreational Items
Unit#481 Kenton Ellis,
Household Goods, Misc. Goods

Unit#520 Phillip A. Lannon,
Household Goods, Misc. Goods,

Recreational Items
Unit#538 Jerry L. Wilcox,
Household Goods, Misc. Goods

Notice of Public Sale
On November 18, 2008 at 1:00pm U-Store-It 401, 28266 Ecorse Rd., Romulus, MI 48174 will sell the following units to highest bidder by Cash. U-Store-It reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. "All items in storage units contain household and misc. items unless otherwise mentioned.

C18, Greg N. Pokorny, B51 Jovieta S. Carter, C25, Ed Musico,

D39, Chad Shaver, D82, Demond B. Brown, E30, Charisma Harris, C1, Dawn Rojas, E39, D&M Home Improvement

PUBLIC SALE

Tuesday, November 11, 2008 - 10am

94 Chevrolet SW-BLK/Gray 1GBEG25RF189783

90 OLDS CUTLASS 4DR-White

1G3WS54T9LD418897 91 OLDS 88 4DR-Gray

1G3HY54C2MH305245 04 KIA RIO 4DR-Silver

KNADC125246307385 85 HONDA ACCORD 2DR-Maroon

1HGAD743XFA143418 99 BUICK CENTURY 4DR-Blue

2G4WS52M3X1637590 AT- 300 S. Newburgh, Westland

NOTE: Westland Impounds

70 Chev 2DR-Green 138570F154843

NOTE: Canton Impounds

VEHICLE PUBLIC AUCTION
The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction, Nov. 25, 2008 at 8:00am at

J and M Towing, 8964 Inkster Rd., Romulus, MI 48174

1987 Linclon 1LNBM81E5KY815745

1994 Jeep 1J4GZ58Y8RC225414

1994 Ford 1FTCR11X6RUB30214

1993 Mazada JM1BG2344P0645050

1996 Dodge 1B3EJ46X5TN259543

1986 Plymouth 1P3B26D4GF283567

1999 Yamaha JYARJ04E5XA003146

1991 Buick 1G4HP54C1MH482657

International 2HSCNAPR25C004194

1997 Wabash 1JJV532SOWL425255

Stoughton 1DW1A53284S699815

1968 Ford F70DUB58246 1995 Chevrolet

1GCCS14Z9SK161735 1992 Chrysler

1C3XV56L3ND701053 1988 Chrysler

1C3BF66P6JW159283 1996 Saturn

1G82G5286T2281394 1992 Ford

1FAPP1288NW187453 1993 Chrysler

1C3XU5530PF676060

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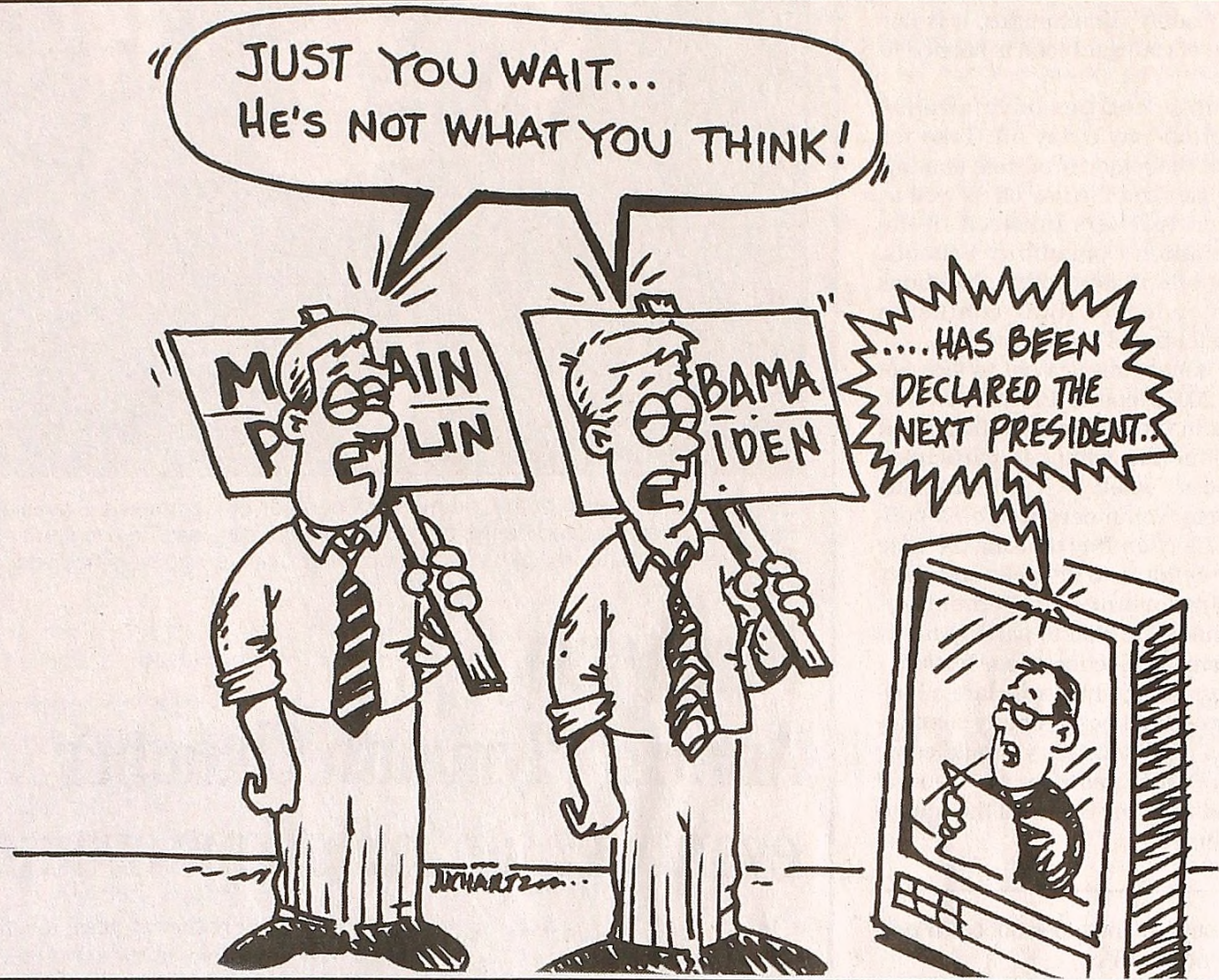
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OPINION

ROMULUS PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Romulus, MI 48174
1 (734) 942-7589



Every voter was a winner

Change was already in the air on Tuesday.

The final numbers were not available when this editorial was written—they won't be official until they're approved by Wayne County—but one thing was clear: voters were turning out in record numbers.

In virtually every precinct throughout western Wayne County, the same thing was reported. Polling places filled with voters, precinct workers happily signing them in instead of waiting around for the next civic-minded resident. Booths were filled and lines were long.

Cool.

This should be both a point of pride and a point of sorrow for every patriotic flag waving American.

We should be proud that we turned out in such numbers, and a little embarrassed that we don't always do so.

It's easy to see why so many people turned out on Tuesday: there was a historic presidential race to be decided, with either the first African American president of the first female vice president.

There was a growing dissatisfaction to the overall direction of the country that may have trickled down as far as township trustee races and school board contests. An attitude of sweeping change was prevalent in gymnasiums that rarely saw more than a handful of voters in previous election cycles.

Don't get us wrong, we think that's a good thing.

We'd like to thank each and every person who exercised their option on Tuesday or those who filled out an absentee ballot before them. We don't have the room.

And a vote of thanks to the municipal clerks who anticipated the turnout and made sure there were adequate poll workers on hand and put all their resources and talent into making sure that the crowds didn't overwhelm the polls or voters become discouraged at long lines.

We'd just like to see this kind of turnout during every election. We don't pay precinct workers by the number of people who cast their ballots. Municipal clerks make the same money, anyway. And maybe, just maybe, if more people voted more often in smaller elections, things wouldn't get to the point where there is so much pessimism and cynicism about government, to begin with.

So while we would like to thank the unprecedented number of people who registered for this election and cast their ballots, for those first-time or irregular voters, we'd like to ask a question: What took you so long?

Surprising and well deserved good news

Even John Santomauro, director of Public Safety for Canton Township, said he was surprised to see crime drop so much in the community.

That might sound like a strange reaction—and we're sure the surprise was a pleasant one—but it's easy to see where he's coming from on this.

All of the market and economic factors point to the probability that crime rates will increase. Despite the slumping market, there are more homes in Canton Township than there were a

year ago. There are more retail businesses open. There are more residents, which means there is more opportunity for crime. There are more people out of work, too, which increases the temptation for people to cross over to 'the dark side.'

Despite all these pressures, Type I crime rates—the serious ones that include robbery, murder, arson and the like—dropped 8 percent in the township. That's not just a little dip, it's a significant reduction.

Obviously, the department is doing something

right. We think the proactive approach—getting residents involved, providing open communication and plenty of visibility—gives residents a sense of pride in their community and deters would be felons from testing their luck. The fact that the department usually quickly solves those crimes serves as a deterrent, as well.

In this day and age, when you tend to hear so many negative things come out of a police department, it's nice to hear some good news for once.

Keep up the good work.

Captain Jack Wilcox had the right philosophy

Every election day, I'm reminded of what the late Capt. Jack Wilcox always said about the Fall Festival in Plymouth.

"I'm happy to see it come and happy to see it go," said the life-long Plymouth resident. Wilcox, whose house still overlooks Kellogg Park, knew what he was talking about.

I don't think there is a patriot around who doesn't walk out of his or her home on Election Day, take a deep breath and feel good about America.

If things are broken, here is every American's chance to try to fix it. If things are running well, here is every American's chance to reward those who are capably leading. When else can that happen?

It was encouraging to see so many people out at the polls. It was encouraging to see so many people line up for a chance to represent the community in some form or other. The cynics out there will probably say that is a factor of the

I don't think there is a patriot around who doesn't walk out of his or her home on Election Day, take a deep breath and feel good about America.

economy—these days, there is no good job like a government job—but there are plenty of races around where people are trying to serve for the right reasons.

Still, I'll be glad when the political advertisements cease—particularly the negative ones. I'll be glad when the flyers stop filling up my mailbox and I can just sift through the run-of-the-mill junk mail. I'll be glad when the signs come down (any time now, people). I'll be glad to continue relationships with people who won reelection and start up new ones with those who were successful in their challenges.

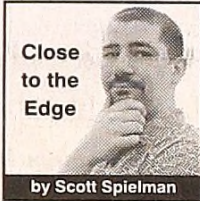
I'm always interested, too, to see how people respond to our newspaper endorsements. There are those that take it personally and those that don't. They're never meant that way—we always try to chose who would best serve the community regardless of the egos, personalities or sense of entitlement any candidate may have—but that doesn't mean there aren't people out there who cannot get over the perceived bruise to their self-confidence.

Oh well.

So, for those who ran a clean, positive campaign, I thank you. For those who went negative, I hope it didn't work.

For all those interested people who ran unsuccessfully for office, don't give up. I hope to see you next time around, too.

Now if you'll excuse me, I'm in dire need of a nap (after I clean out my mailbox and erase all the robocall messages one final time...)



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

Shouldn't officials learn from history?

Inkster officials have been strangely quiet about the recent legal case filed by Lt. Kevin Smith, a 13-year employee of the city.

The lieutenant filed a case against the city after an involuntary transfer was forced on him. The case echoes one filed in 2004 by Lt. Tom Diaz for discrimination, which resulted in a verdict against the city in 2007 and a slew of bad publicity.

Officers and residents are asking why this has happened again. To this writer, it's clear: The folks who are appointed or elected to leadership positions don't like or respect their law enforcers in the way that other communities do. This gives the same officials a comfort level about imposing edicts that are sometimes oppressive on peace officers that is not shared by counterparts in neighboring cities.

Union sources told me the worst thing about the situation is that there's no one at city hall, or among the elected officials, who will even consider their side of this.

"There is just no one to go," the source said. "They don't care about making this a decent place to work. They won't bother to come to speak with us – especially the council people."

"The elected body doesn't seem to care at all. The only way we feel that we can be heard is going through the court system."

At least there's been honesty

about one thing: City officials said, after they were found at fault for their practices in a discrimination lawsuit filed by Diaz, that they would not change anything about what led them to court.

They kept that promise, and it's likely they'll be in court again.

Here's something to think about: The city recently settled an issue that avoided a lawsuit that would have been filed by a person who

issue, than why can't they see the forest for the trees when it comes to their personnel practices?

Could it be that someone is getting something out of this? That's a question city hall leadership needs to answer.

One thing is for sure: This is likely to be another situation that may look OK on paper, but will look bad for the city in court.

Election 2008: Today, readers have the advantage of knowing something that the writer does not – the outcome of the presidential election.

As I write this Monday, the number of issues that have to be debated and resolved for the next president and Congress are overwhelming.

There has been a fascinating glimpse into presidential politics on the History Channel. "The Presidents" is a chronological look at each president, the issues they needed to resolve, and how they went about keeping the nation on an even keel. Of course, some were better than others.

There were controversies a plenty, going all the way back to the Spoils System under Andrew Jackson.

The conclusion I came to is that the answers to our current problems is in history.

We know that a Spoils System,

One thing is for sure: This is likely to be another situation that may look OK on paper, but will look bad for the city in court.

apparently was wrongly jailed. A warrant apparently was not removed from they department system that officers on the street tap into.

The city chose to settle the case before it was ever filed. The details of that settlement, so far, are unavailable.

Clearly the folks at city hall knew something was wrong, and if they were willing to settle this



Sad but True

by Molly Tippen

where cronies are given important jobs, does not work.

We know that socialism for the rich while everyone else is at the whim of the free market doesn't work.

We know that fruitless and endless wars bring us less security.

We know that trickle down economics doesn't actually trickle

See Inkster, page 6

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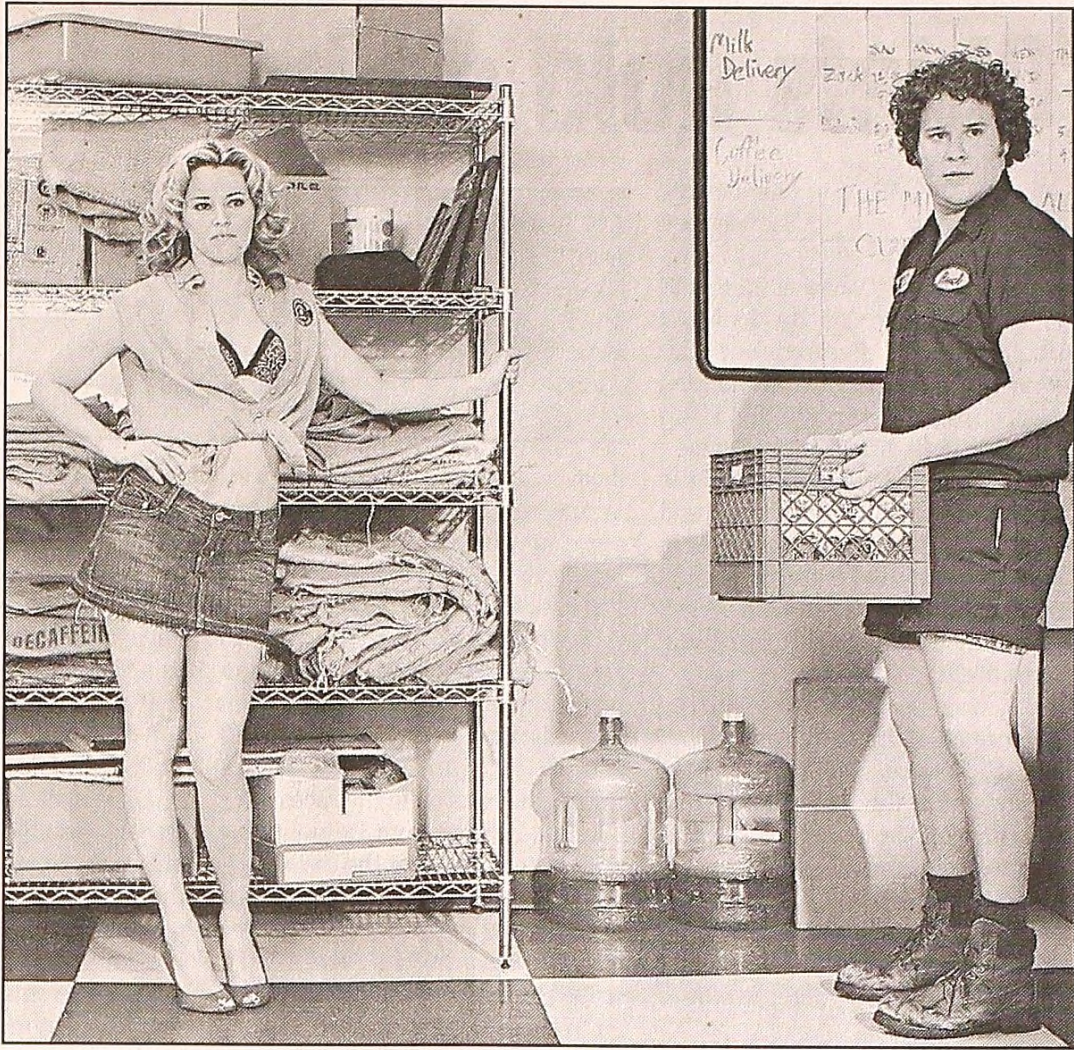
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Zack and Miri make a porno



Harsh language mars, but doesn't spoil, latest Smith film

Zack and Miri Make a Porno, the latest film installment from independent film darling Kevin Smith, falls a little short of his career-making film, *Clerks*, but is likely to appeal to his fans anyway.

But that's OK, because people who would object to the content in the film (especially the language) are not likely to go see a film about the making of a porno movie – better known in Michigan as adult fare that won't be eligible for the state film tax credit.

The film follows Zach (Seth Rogen of *Knocked Up* fame), who works at a coffee shop, and his lifelong friend/roommate Miri (Elizabeth Banks, *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*), who finds herself short of cash due to decisions she made, and of course, fate.

With no utilities and little money, the pair makes a fateful decision – to make a low-rent adult film to make some fast cash to get the lights on.

From there, the process of making the film – and coming to grips with feelings long hidden and never spoken – plays

out.

The performances in *Zack and Miri* are what a filmgoer would expect, and are similar to the Judd Apatow films from which Rogen hails. However, in a very general way, Smith's films still have more of a sweet center to them than Apatow's. This makes the characters and their story more appealing over the long haul.

This turns out to be a banner year for Banks, who was not a household name, but has shown two sides of her acting ability this year in *Zack and Miri*, and W., Oliver Stone's film about outgoing U.S. President George W. Bush.

Most of the supporting cast is hilarious. Some are Smith regulars; others are new to the realm of R-rated filmmaking. Jason Mewes, who Smith followers know as the slack-er drug dealer Jay from *Clerks* and *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*, has a large role in this film. Jeff Anderson, the mouthy Randall from *Clerks*, has a smaller role as a buddy of Zach's. Craig Robinson plays the coffee-shop colleague that offers to finance the film. Justin Long plays a gay male

porn actor, and Brandon Routh plays his boyfriend.

Traci Lords, the former adult film actress, also makes an appearance in the film, along with Katie Morgan, who still currently works in the adult film industry.

Needless to say, this movie is not for children or teens. The subject matter is clearly for those over 40; the language would make a longshoreman blush.

One word about the language: I still think the message of this move – that there is a difference between sex and love – would have been intact with about half of the swear-words edited out. However, it is Smith's film, and while some reviewers have vocally objected to the language, he should not be pressured to remove it.

Smith's films still, after many years, continue to explore the perils and pitfalls, and the spirit of the working class, and there's something to be said for that, even if the words are harsh.

Recommended.

Reviewed By Molly Tippen - Staff Writer

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SPORTS

Chiefs hold off hungry Cats

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Up 21-0, the Canton Chiefs had an opportunity to slam the door shut on Plymouth Friday, but the Wildcats were hungry and nothing was going to stop them in the Division 1 pre-district playoff game.

A victory dangled in front of the 'Cats like a fresh piece of tuna until Canton junior quarterback Kevin Delapaz snatched it away, scoring the winning touchdown with 47 seconds left to play to put the game away, 35-28.

"I was just really exciting because all of the hard work we put into it," Delapaz said of the winning 12-play drive that took almost five minutes off the clock. "I knew it would give us the lead and that was a good thing. I was on edge still because they are a really good team and knew that anything could happen but I knew our defense would come through."

The Chiefs' defense held on for the final 47 seconds to secure the victory and a shot for the district title on Friday.

It was anything goes up until then.

Plymouth battled back and eventually tied the game at 28 before Delapaz capped off the longest drive of the game with the one-yard sneak.

"I don't think it should have been that close but those guys kept hanging around and hanging around," said Canton Coach Tim Baechler. "It was like this in week three; it was intense. Our league is a good league—everybody plays every game. So I think that we are ready for these kinds of games and luckily we made just enough plays to survive and move on."

Canton—known for its smash-mouth style of play—strutted to a 14-

I was just really exciting because all of the hard work we put into it.

Kevin Delapaz

0 advantage in the first quarter with an uncharacteristic pass play and some newfound trickery prevailed on a reverse punt return—all within two minutes of each other.

With 3:14 left in the frame, Delapaz tossed a pass to senior running back Kiere Daniels that went 65 yards for a score. Then with 1:19 left to go, junior back Arron Boudreaux was off to the races after taking a reverse from Daniels on a punt return. He went the distance—85 yards—to make it a 14-0 game for Canton.

Delapaz added a seven-yard score at the top of the second quarter to put the Chiefs up, 21-0.

Then 20 seconds later Plymouth senior phenom Terrance Guthridge broke free for a 93-yard return to cut into the Chiefs' lead, 21-7.

Canton did something that was uncharacteristic of Chief football—turned the ball over twice in a row on fumbles.

Plymouth stalled on the first recovery but took advantage on the second. On what looked to be a stopped play, Plymouth senior defensive back Kelly Waite scooped up the fumble and scampered 44 yards to close the gap, 21-14.

The 'Cats had a chance to close it even more with a field goal attempt but Canton defenders got a piece of it to keep the score as is at halftime.

"He told us that we were playing well and we just let them back into the game because of mistakes," Delapaz said of Baechler's halftime speech. "He said if we just stay

focused and play our game he knew that all of our hard work would pay off."

And it did, at first.

Junior running back Adam Payter alluded defenders on his way to a 47-yard touchdown trek with 7:40 left in the third. The play gave the Chiefs a 28-14 lead, but Plymouth wouldn't go away.

On fourth-and-five, senior quarterback Matt Skubik hit senior wide-out Zack Hamed for a first down at the Chiefs' 16. The play helped set up Guthridge's 1-yard push to make it a one-score game again, 28-21, with 23 seconds left in the third.

Then Plymouth repeated on their next drive. This time on fourth-and-six, Skubik found senior tight end Ron Goble for a first down at the Chiefs' 16. That set up Guthridge for a 4-yard push to knot the game at 28.

"The way I saw it was we were down inside their 40 and if we punt it and don't pin them we're only going to give up 10 or 15 yards," said Plymouth Coach Mike Sawchuk of the two fourth-down plays. "So why not go for it? Plus time was running out and it's the playoffs and you have to go for it."

Plymouth turned in a valiant effort but as it is often written: the rest was history.

Delapaz scored but left 47 seconds on the clock. Plymouth moved the ball but Canton senior defensive back Nick Sweda came up with an interception with five seconds left to secure the Chief's a win.



Canton junior running back Adam Payter (9) breaks away from Plymouth tacklers to go 47 yards and a score to put the Chiefs up, 28-14, in the third quarter. Canton won the the pre district match, 35-28.

"I hate my job—hate it," Baechler said after it was all over with. "It's a joyous misery; I mean I love it and I hate it. I guess you have to be a head coach to understand it. I'm really proud of them for battling the way that they did. "We had a chance to put them away and we gave them some opportunities and they're a good See Chiefs, page 9

Vikings hammer Carlson, 50-0

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

There were no mishaps, glitches, hiccups—or even a stutter—in the Inkster Vikings pre-district playoff performance against visiting Gibraltar Carlson on Saturday.

After a slow start—if that's possible—the Vikings conquered the Marauders, 50-0, and will move on to the district Championship bout against Trenton this week.

"We played today," said Inkster Coach Greg Carter. "We had a couple of practices that weren't right this week so we had to dig down and decide if we want to be serious about this."

"I think our team is real talented and sometimes you can take things for granted and we weren't working as hard as we should have," he added. "I told them that out of 256 teams we probably had some of the worst practices of any of those teams. But they got it together the last two days and we had good results today."

The offense stumbled at first and didn't take advantage of senior defensive back Cameron Gordon's 60-yard interception return to the Marauders' 10-yard line. On the next play Inkster fumbled and Carlson recovered in the end zone.

Carlson couldn't move the ball against the mighty Viking defense and were forced to

punt. The snap went over the kicker's head, giving Inkster possession on the 1-yard line. Junior quarterback Devin Gardner punched it in for the first score. Senior Kevin Brown ran the two-point conversion in to make it 8-0.

Then the snowball effect took over.

Then senior Eric Williams returned a punt 52 yards for a touchdown and a 14-0 lead with 27 seconds left in the first quarter.

Senior running back Alan Freeman scored on a 24-yard run with 6:02 left to play in the first half. Gardner hit senior Cameron Gordon for the two-point conversion, making it a 22-0 game. Freeman made a heads-up shuffle pass back to Gardner, who carried it to the 24-yard line to set up the score.

Gordon stepped up again on defense and snagged his second interception with 2:46 left in the half. Gardner capitalized on the turnover with a 57-yard touchdown 15 seconds later. Gardner and Gordon connected again for two points and 30-0 half-time advantage.

The onslaught continued in the second half.

Freeman had a 62-yard scoring run called back on a holding penalty but Gardner responded with a 67-yard pass play to junior Jonathan Taylor on the following play for a 36-0 lead only 33 seconds into the half. On the next Viking drive, Gardner hit junior Edjuan Penn for a 37-yard score to make it 42-nothing.

Gordon continued to impress on defense as he scooped up a fumble and took it in for a 50-yard score as time expired in the third quarter. The points didn't count due to a penalty, but it didn't matter. Three minutes later junior running back Alonso Collins broke free for a 38-yard tally. Senior back Jose McNeal capped off the scoring, 50-nil, with the two-point conversion.

While the offense seemed unstoppable the defense was impenetrable. Gordon accounted for three of the team's forced turnovers.

"Cameron played really well and that's what it's going to take for us to win," Carter said. "The good players are going to have to step up and play good in these big games and he came and did a really good job today. He's getting to where he's comfortable playing safety and I think that is a great position for him because he has a lot of athleticism—hopefully he can continue to get better."

Senior linebacker Darnell Morris led the defense with 14 tackles while fellow senior linebacker Denzel Richmond added 13.

See Vikings, page 9



Inkster junior quarterback Devin Gardner (7) jukes around Carlson defender Carlos Love (4) on Saturday during a pre-district playoff game in Inkster. Gardner ran for two and threw for two more touchdowns in the 50-0 victory.

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Chiefs

FROM PAGE 8

“We had some ups and downs and that’s why football is such a great game—you learn so much about life through the game of football.”

**Plymouth Coach
Mike Sawchuk**

Delapaz finished with 41 yards on the ground. He was 3-for-9 for 78 yards passing. Guthridge was Plymouth’s bright spot of the night. He ran the ball 35 times for 175 yards in his final game.

“He is our bread and butter,” Sawchuk said. “You have to run the football against (Canton) because you want to take time off of the clock and keep the ball away from them. They’re a good coaching staff and we had a couple key players out in key situations on defense—Connor and Gilbert went out—and they ran trap and took advantage of it.

“My coaching staff and these kids did a great job,” he added. “We had some ups and downs and that’s why football is such a great game—you learn so much about life through the game of football.”

Delapaz said the recent victory is a step in the right direction—up—but with a long way to go.

“It was just another rung on the ladder,” he added. “We have high goals so we’re just going to keep working hard and stay focused on our final goal—states.

Canton (9-1) hosts a 7-3 Saline squad at 7 p.m. on Friday.

Vikings

FROM PAGE 8

“It’s a learning process and the more work they get, the better it prepares us.”

**Inkster Coach
Greg Carter**

Our guys did a good job and paid attention in practice and got it done today.”

In the fourth quarter Carter put in his back-up players to help prepare for the near and distant future.

“They did a good job,” he said of the bench players. “It’s a learning process and the more work they get, the better it prepares us—not just for the playoffs but also for next year. It’s important for them to play well and even more important for them to have that mindset that they can’t allow touchdowns or minimize them as much as possible.”

Inkster (9-1) hosts Trenton (7-3) at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

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team and they capitalized and took advantage and all of a sudden we had a ball game again,” he added. “I’m very proud of that last drive, though. The kids made it happen under pressure and that’s what you have to do in the playoffs.”

Payter led the Chiefs’ ground attack with 115 yards on 13 carries. Sophomore running back Davion Stackhouse added 96 on 13 attempts.

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Carter was surprised with the 50-0 playoff outcome.

“I thought (C a r l s o n) would be able to score,” he said. “They run their offense really well. That jet-motion and jet-sweep that they have is dangerous because one cutback can get that guy free. I definitely didn’t expect to shut them out.

CITY OF ROMULUS
REQUEST TO RECEIVE BIDS
BID 08/09-10 -15 YARD COMBINATION
SINGLE ENGINE SEWER CLEANER

The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking bids from qualified vendors for the above item/items.

(1) Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit bids *must do use forms provided by the City*. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained from Lynn A, Conway, Purchasing Agent, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing Iconway@ci.romulus.mi.us or are available to download from the *“Bid Requirements”* section on the City of Romulus Web Site: <http://ci.romulus.mi.us>

(2) Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes and returned to the *City Clerk’s Office* no later than 3:00pm, Tuesday, November 25, 2008. At approximately 3:15 all timely received bids are to be publicly opened and read.

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(3) The City reserves the right to reject all bids and proposals and to waive technicalities.

(4) For additional information contact Lynn A, Conway, City of Romulus Purchasing Agent, by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing Iconway@ci.romulus.mi.us

Publish: November 06, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
USE OF FUNDS

On Tuesday November 18, 2008, in accordance with guidelines of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Van Buren Township will hold the first of two public hearings in order to receive comments from residents of the community on the proposed use of the Township’s 2009 Community Development Block Grant funds. The Public Hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Hall located at 46425 Tyler Road.

The estimated funding level for the 2009 CDBG Budget Year is \$135,000. The CDBG program gives priority to those qualified activities which further national objectives. These objectives are:

- Assist low and moderate-income persons
- Address slum or blight conditions
- Meet a particularly urgent community development need

The following projects are proposed and subject to approval by the Board of Trustees:

Senior Services - Public Services	
• A portion (23%) of the Senior Director’s wages	\$11,500.00
• Transportation coordinator	\$10,900.00
• Telephone reassurance staff person	\$ 9,100.00
• Senior Center administrative intern	\$ 7,000.00
Senior Services - Bricks & Mortar	
• Office area additions	\$10,500.00
Parks & Recreation - Public Services	
Youth Services	
• Takin’ It To The Streets	\$14,000.00
• Youth instruction and activities	\$ 6,000.00
Parks & Recreation Brick & Mortar projects	
• Physical fitness area for youth/closet rebuild	\$ 5,000.00
Demolition	\$ 47,500.00
Planning / Administration	\$ 13,500.00
Total Funding	\$135,000.00

Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m., Tuesday December 2, 2008.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Joannie D, Payne, CMC, Township Clerk
Charter Township of Van Buren

Publish: November 6, 2008
November 13, 2008

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD OCTOBER 13, 2008
IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER
11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.
Present: John Barden, LeRoy Burcroff, Harry Crout, William Crova, Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth.
Excused: Ellen Craig-Bragg
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
Alan Lambert, Mayor
Linda R. Choate, Clerk

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-331

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crout to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held October 6, 2008.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

3A. None

4. Motion by Barden, supported by Crout to accept the Chairpersons Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-332

5A. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Barden to concur with the recommendation of Lynn Conway, Purchasing Coordinator and Charles Kirby, Public Safety Director to award bid 08/09-01, two (2) vehicles for the Public Safety Department to the lowest qualified bidder, Signature in the amount of \$53,692.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-333

5B. Motion by Crova, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and Charles Kirby, Public Safety Director to award bid 08/09-03, for acquisition, installation, warranty, maintenance and support (for the first five years) of twentyfive (25) in car video systems, for the Public Safety Department to lowest bidder, O.E.M. Micro Solutions in the amount of \$148,050.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-334

5C. Motion by Barden, supported by Crout to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and Thomas Wilson, DPW Director to award bid 08/09-05, for the acquisition and replacement heater boiler systems for Romulus Fire Station #2, to the lowest bidder, Controlled Temperature, Inc., in the amount of \$6,895.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-335

5D. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of Purchasing Coordinator, Lynn Conway and Charles Kirby,. Public Safety Director to award bid 08/09-06, for a digital interview recording system for the City of Romulus Public Safety Department to the only bidder, Absolute Sales International in the amount of \$13,732.14.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-336

6A1. Motion by Crova, supported by Crout to concur with the Advisory Committee and approve the re-appointments of Beverly McAnally and David Paul to the Board of Review with terms to expire December 31, 2010.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

08-337

11. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to authorize the City Treasurer to disburse funds as listed in Warrant 08-19 in the dollar amount of One Million, Nine Hundred Forty Four Thousand, Four Hundred Ninety Dollars and Sixty Three Cents (\$1,944,490.63).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Abstain - Crova.
Motion Carried.

12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Barden to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Burcroff, Crout, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on October 13, 2008.

Linda R. Choate, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: November 6, 2008

Simply Spectacular

11th annual Northville Community Foundation Holiday Home Tour is next week

There may not be snow and the temperatures might have lingered at the 70 degree mark this week, but believe it or not, the holidays are only weeks away.

And that can mean only one thing: It's time for the annual Northville Community Foundation Holiday Home Tour.

This year, five privately-owned homes will be professionally decorated for Christmas, and, as usual, the decorators have outdone themselves, according to foundation Director Shari Peters.

"Every year, we think, how can we top what we did last time," she said, "and every year we seem to find even more spectacular homes."

This year, the tour, sponsored by Toll Brothers, takes place from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday Nov. 14 and 15. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$23 the day of the tour.

"Each of these homes this year is so unique, they are just custom, custom, custom," Peters said.

"We have everything from those who are downsizing to young professionals with an expanding family," she added.

On exhibit will be a condominium that Peters described as so inviting, visitors won't want to leave.

"Both the interior design and the holiday décor are by Sharon Lewarne and the attention to detail is evident throughout this home," Peters said.

Home Sweet Home in Northville decorators are embellishing a "gorgeous contemporary" that will have "tons of surprises," Peters noted.

The third home is a two-story that just never seems to end. Decorator Kathy Fettes from Rand & Co. Interiors has plenty of space for her holiday décor in the Northville Township home. "This house is worth the price of admission before it is decorated and afterward, it is breathtaking," Peters said. "It even has a game room in the lower level that is something to see."

The fourth home is also worth seeing without the holiday touches, and with them, something not to be missed. The main level is totally self-contained including a master suite and laundry room. The breathtaking wood floors are only a hint of what there is to see. Colleen Nametz from Brooklane Design had plenty of room for centerpieces and fireplace décor in this house, Peters said.

The fifth home has previously been photographed for a popular home magazine, and has only gotten better since then, Peters said. The floor plan is unique and the lower level even has bleacher seats from Olympia stadium. Fran Lamb from Decked Out and Stayin' Home provided the holiday decoration.

"This home is built into a hill and every room has huge windows that bring the outside into the room. It is really worth seeing," Peters said.

"Many of the homeowners this year used things of their own interspaced with accessories and new things the decorators added, or the decorators used their things in new ways," Peters said. "That's really neat, to see just how creative the decorators are."

Proceeds from the event fund the foundation endowments including the Healthy Youth and Senior Endowment that provides funding for the anti-smoking programs in the schools, the senior citizen gift baskets, the scholarship fund and many other youth and senior needs.

"Tickets are limited and this is a sell out every year," Peters cautioned. Tickets are available at Gardenviews, Home Sweet Home and the Northville Chamber of Commerce. They can be charged or ordered at the foundation office, (248) 374-0200.

The days of the event, tickets can only be purchased at Ward Church 40000 W. Six Mile Road.



Photos by Ken Garner